

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 12, 14 and 20 are amended, and claim 13 is canceled, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Accordingly, claims 1-12 and 14-26 are pending. Claims 1-11, 17, 18 and 23-26 are withdrawn.

The amendments to claims 12 and 20 are supported, for example, by original claim 13. Claim 14 is amended only to change its dependency in view of the cancellation of claim 13. Thus, no new matter is added by this Amendment.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 12-16 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,762,785 to Roddy et al. (Roddy) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,042,921 to Sato et al. (Sato). This rejection is moot with respect to canceled claim 13 and is respectfully traversed with respect to the remaining claims.

Independent claims 12 and 20 are amended to recite "a peak wavelength of the second illumination light is between a first edge wavelength of transmission or reflection, by the light combining element, of the linearly polarized light in the predetermined direction and a second edge wavelength of transmission or reflection, by the light combining element, of a linearly polarized light in a direction perpendicular to the predetermined direction." The amendment deletes recitation of "difference generation range," while clarifying that a wavelength of the second illumination light is between a first edge wavelength and a second edge wavelength, and that the edge wavelength is the edge of wavelength transmission or reflection, by the light combining element. Applicant respectfully submits that neither Roddy nor Sato teaches or suggests these features.

In particular, none of the light emitted by the light sources in Roddy are disclosed to have a peak wavelength that is between a first edge wavelength of transmission or reflection,

by the light combining element, and a second edge wavelength of transmission or reflection, by the light combining element.

Further, the wave combining unit 19 of Roddy is a dichroic mirror, which is a combining element that transmits and reflects light in accordance with wavelength. In other words, the reflection of the wavelength 514 nm and the transmission of the wavelength 488 nm is just a characteristic of reflecting/transmitting light according to wavelength. This does not teach anything with regard to a feature where characteristics of reflecting/transmitting light differ according to polarization directions of light of a given wavelength. As such, Roddy does not teach or suggest a dichroic mirror having a characteristic of reflecting or transmitting light which differs according to polarization directions.

Sato does not remedy these deficiencies of Roddy, being cited only for disclosing a polarization converter comprising a quarter wave plate and a reflection-type polarization plate.

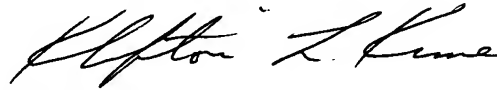
For the foregoing reasons, any permissible combination of Roddy and Sato fails to render obvious the subject matter of independent claims 12 and 20, as well as the claims depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: July 12, 2006

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